

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Please note that an information disclosure statement (IDS) has been filed concurrently with the present response. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and initial the cited references.

An amendment to the specification has been made herein to include the relationship of the present application to the applications to which the present application claims priority. No new matter is added. In addition, the amendment updates the status of the parent applications. Entry of this amendment and a corrected filing receipt that includes reference to all the parent applications is hereby requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this amendment, claim 13 is amended. No claims have been added or canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicant respectfully submits that, upon entry of the subject amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicant, thus, respectfully requests consideration of the above amendment and following remarks.

Claims 7-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,504,454 to Dagget et al. ("Dagget").

Claims 1-6 are allowed. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-6.

Claim 13 has been amended for clarification and to correct a clerical error.

The present invention is directed to a device for coupling to the medium voltage power lines. Various embodiments of the invention are claimed.

Independent claims 7, 10, 13, and 15 stand rejected as being unpatentable in view of Dagget. Dagget discloses a method of demodulating carrier data to provide communications on a power line of a building structure. As stated in Dagget:

AC electrical wiring is already present in building structures to serve the building's power distribution needs. If this existing wiring could also serve as a communication media, it would provide a cost effective alternative for implementing local area communication networks.

Col. 1, lines 12-17.

Applicant submits that Dagget is concerned with, and only discloses and teaches methods for, coupling to a low voltage power line having a voltage of 120 Volts. In the rejection of the claims, the office action relies on the power source 14, a power line 12, and the line coupling unit 16 disclosed by Dagget (referring to Col. 3 lines 20-27). Office Action at page 2.

The disclosure of Dagget is clear that power line 12 "is connected to a 120 Volt power supply 14." Col. 2, lines 48-49. Elsewhere Dagget reads "A shared media, or data highway, which physically consists of the 120 Volt AC powerlines 12, comprises the first communication environment." Col. 2, lines 62-65. Thus, it is clear that the technology of Dagget is for coupling to and communicating over low voltage power lines.

Dagget does not disclose coupling to or communicating over medium voltage power lines. As disclosed in the present application, medium voltage power lines may carry 4000 to 34,000 volts (See Figure 23 and elsewhere). Coupling to power lines carrying such high voltages presents challenges that are not present when coupling data to and from low voltage power lines.

Claim 7 requires (among other things) a transformer in a housing and having a high side for coupling to the medium voltage power line and a low side connection. A capacitor in the housing is connected on a first side to the high side connection of the transformer.

Dagget fails to disclose connecting a capacitor to the high side of a transformer that is for coupling to the medium voltage power line. In addition, Dagget simply fails to disclose the basic claimed components and the office action fails to identify how Dagget teaches the claim elements. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed inventions are not "minor design variations" of the teachings of Dagget as asserted in the office action. Office Action at page 2.

The elements of Independent claim 10 are similarly not disclosed or taught by Dagget. Among other limitations, Dagget does not teach or suggest a coupling capacitor for coupling to the test point of the dead from transformer or a surge arrester coupled across the first side of a isolation transformer.

Dagget further fails to disclose or teach the limitations of claim 13. For example, claim 13 requires a surge arrestor for coupling to the medium voltage power line. As discussed, Dagget does not teach or suggest, and is not concerned with, coupling to medium voltage power lines.

Finally, Dagget fails to disclose or teach the limitations of claim 15. Specifically, Dagget does not teach or suggest a dielectric core that couples directly to the medium voltage power line such that the medium voltage power line passes through the dielectric core, a winding disposed about the dielectric core, a signal coupling winding communicatively coupled to the winding, and a coupling capacitor coupled to the signal coupling winding.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent claims 7, 10, 13, and 15 are patentable over Dagget. In addition, because a claim that is dependent from a patentably distinct claim is also patentably distinct, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 8 and 9, which depend from claim 7, claims 11 and 12, which depend from claim 10, claim 14, which depends from claim 13, and claims 16 and 17, which depend from claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art references and that the application stands in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that all pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

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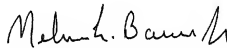
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CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Mel Barnes at (301) 581-0081, to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic interview.

Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiencies in fees, including any fees for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to Deposit Account 50-3970. Please credit any overpayment in fees to the same deposit account.

Date: December 15, 2006



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